



# Half Crazy

February 2023  
Issue No. 6

The Newsletter of the Seated Half Society

## *Feature Coin*



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com



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**1853-O PCGS-8 No Arrows and Rays**



**Liberty Seated  
Collectors Club**  
Uniting collectors of Liberty Seated coinage since 1973



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The Newsletter of the  
**Seated Half Society**

**Feb 2023, Issue #6**

**Current Membership - 31**



Image by NGC Photo Vision - learn more at NGCCoin.com



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

1858-O NGC-3 10% Off Center Liberty Seated Half Dollar (image courtesy of HA.com)

**Seated Half Society has 31 Founding Members**

## In This Issue:

SHS President's Letter

- **SHS Shirts**
- SHS Member Ernie Ely Represents Us in Salt Lake
- Feature Article – **Liberty Seated Half Dollar Error Coins**



## SHS President's Letter

So begins our second full year as a club and the Founding Member designation is officially retired. Our record of adding new members each quarter is still intact. We are now up to 31 members and that is the total of Founding members for the record books. Half dollar collectors from all over the country have expressed their enthusiasm for what we've begun here. Several collectors are actively working toward qualifying for membership, and we encourage their collecting efforts.

With this issue of Half Crazy we are separating our newsletter (Half Crazy) from the e-Gobrecht newsletter. It has become too cumbersome for email to handle all the data involved. If anyone outside our membership still wants to get the Half Crazy newsletter, tell them to contact me and I will add them to the email list.

Last year we honored the first issues from the four mints during the Liberty Seated half dollar era. This year we will feature some rare varieties from the Liberty Seated half dollar series, the 1853-O No Arrows and Rays, the 1842 Sm Date Sm Ltrs, the 1873 No Arrows Open 3, and the 1840 (O) Med Ltrs. If you have a photogenic coin that you would like featured (credited or anonymous) send me the photos and it will be considered.

In this issue you will find an article on Liberty Seated half dollar errors, ordering information for the new SHS club shirts, and an SHS member displaying his complete half dollar collection at the Salt Lake Coin Show.

Dennis Fortier, SHS President

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Again, if you believe you qualify for membership, please contact Verne Pitman or myself to schedule an audit of your collection. All LSCC members who qualify are welcome. We hope you will join our association and become a member of the Seated Half Society.

Dennis Fortier, SHS President  
[ricajun@msn.com](mailto:ricajun@msn.com)

Verne Pitman SHS Vice-President  
[vwpitman@gmail.com](mailto:vwpitman@gmail.com)

Also, see November 2021 issue for club By-laws and Audit information, or the club website.





## SHS Shirts Now Available for Ordering

### (SHS Members Only)

During the first Annual Gathering of the SHS at the ANA, the members present expressed interest in having club shirts made for our new club. After speaking with Minuteman Press (who makes the LSCC shirts) we have a product and a price. This will be an opportunity that will not come again for some time, so please consider your level of interest. **\$38 delivered.** Send orders to Dennis Fortier, 215 Pomeroy Dr, Crossville, Tn 38558 **Deadline for ordering is March 1.** Make checks payable to Dennis Fortier.



**Wanted: Quality Liberty Seated half dollar photos for this publication. High grade –Low grade, all are welcome. Anonymous or credit acknowledged as your prefer.**

Send to [ricajun@msn.com](mailto:ricajun@msn.com)



## SHS Member Represents Us in Salt Lake

SHS member Ernie Ely represented the LSCC, BCCS, and the SHS at the Salt Lake Coin Show. This was the first time our clubs have been represented in Utah. Ernie received many complements on his complete set of Seated Half Dollars.



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## Ernie's Half Dollar Collection







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# Feature Article

## Liberty Seated Half Dollar Error Coins



Image by NGC Photo Vision – learn more at NGCcoin.com



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

1858-O NGC-3 10% Off Center, Image Courtesy of Heritage Auctions

Error coins in the Liberty Seated half dollar series are scarce. The majority of Liberty Seated half dollar collectors are not interested in error coins. If they knew just how scarce Liberty Seated half dollar error coins are, they might give it another thought.

First, we must discuss the various types of mint errors that exist. There are three categories of error coins according to the American Numismatic Association. Planchet errors, die errors, and mint striking errors.

Of the three, die errors are the most common in general for the Liberty Seated half dollar series. Die errors encompass repunched dates, repunched mintmarks, double dies, errant digits, and more. Some are scarce; many are not, after all a die can strike many coins.

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Planchet errors (or flaws) can be scarce because they concern one individual coin. The most notable of these planchet errors are clipped planchets. A clipped planchet is one that did not get a full circle of metal when punched out of the metal strip.

Lamination flaws are caused by impurities in the metal used to make the planchet. Most are minor. Some can be significant, or even catastrophic.

Striking errors again concern individual coins. Striking errors exist in many forms and are generally scarce in the Liberty Seated half dollar series. Some of these striking error types are: broadstrike, strike through, die cap, brockage, multiple strike, railroad rim and off-center strike.

Of all these interesting errors let us look at off-center strikes. They are very scarce in the Liberty Seated half dollar series. An off-center strike occurs when a planchet does not sit properly in the striking chamber and is only partially struck leaving a portion of the planchet blank or unstruck. Off-center strikes are measured by the percentage that is left unstruck. Another aspect of off-center strikes is whether or not the date is present. A full date can add value to such a piece.

Currently, I know of just six Liberty Seated half dollars that are off-center. I expect there are more out there that I have not seen as yet. The six I know of are an 1858-O AG, 10% off center, 1858-O VF, 10% off-center, 1860-S VG, 10% off-center, 1875-S XF/AU, 5% off center, 1875-S AU, 15% off center, and an 1877 (no data).

It is hardly surprising that several of the known (to me) off centers are from high mintage dates. With production ramped up, errors are made and usually not noticed.

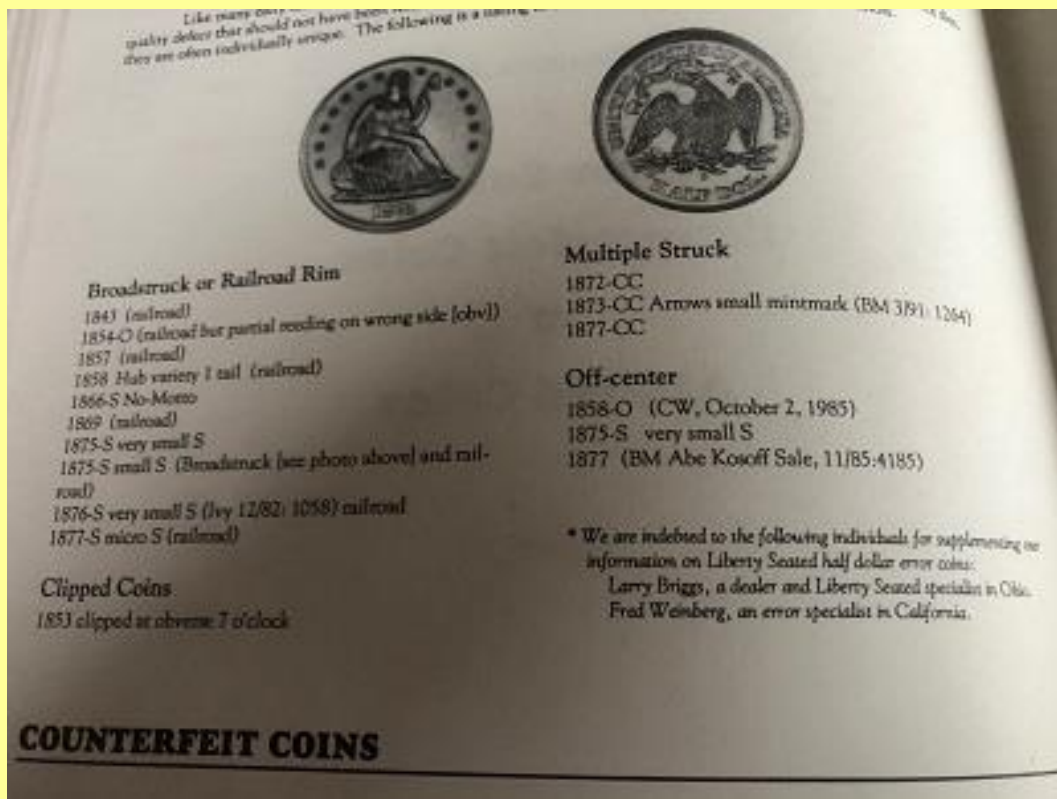
If you have one of these scarce striking errors or planchet clips let me know so I can add it to the census I am building. For more information on mint errors check out this page: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mint-made\\_errors](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mint-made_errors)

1875-S 15% off center pictured in GJ #64



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*Error list Wiley-Bugert, The Complete Guide to Liberty Seated Half Dollars*

*(100 points needed for membership in the Seated Half Society, see our webpage for details)*

<http://lscweb.org/SHS-homepage.shtml>

## Request for Content

Any publication is only as good as the content it receives from its members. Articles, stories and photos are always welcome and encouraged! Please submit to the SHS Editor, Dennis Fortier at: [ricajun@msn.com](mailto:ricajun@msn.com)

Again, if you believe you qualify for membership, please contact Verne Pitman or myself to schedule an audit of your collection. All who qualify are welcome! We hope you will join our association and become a founding member of the Seated Half Society.

Dennis Fortier  
SHS President  
[ricajun@msn.com](mailto:ricajun@msn.com)

Verne Pitman  
Vice-President  
[vpitman@gmail.com](mailto:vpitman@gmail.com)